

D 9474/1

D 9474/1

Special Email to Dr. S.

"A"

3052/41.

Central  
Oct. 25th,

41.

2.

33.

Daily.

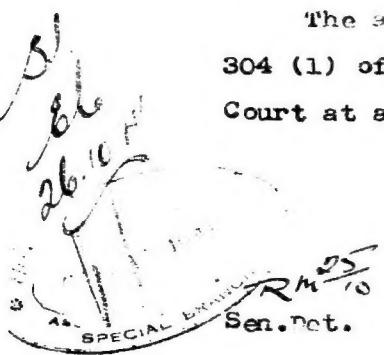
S.S.D. Court  
General enquiries.  
Office.

The accused appeared before the S.S.D. Court at a.m. 21-10-41, on a Writ of Retention and was remanded for further enquiries.

During the period of remand nothing further has resulted from further enquiries.

The accused has therefore been charged under Art. 304 (1) of the C.C.C. and will appear before the S.S.D. Court at a.m. 28-10-41, for trial.

C. C. S.  
D. S.



D.D.O. "A"

Copy to Special Branch.

Person. being  
for a day  
26/10

## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

## REPORT

S. I., Special Branch, ~~XXXXXX~~ File No. .... Date October 27, 1941.

**SUBJECT:** Strike of Carpenters and Masons - settlement and proposed meeting of building contractors on October 30, 1941.

Through direct negotiations between representatives of employers and those of employees, the strike of approximately 3,000 casual carpenters and masons, which was declared on October 16 to enforce a demand for 100% increase in wages, was settled on October 25 and the workers resumed on October 26.

Both parties have agreed upon the following increases in wages to be effective from November 15:-

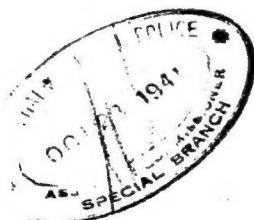
86

FILE  
28-10-11

<u>Classification of workers</u>	<u>New wages per day</u>	<u>Existing wages per day</u>
Carpenters	\$3.30	\$2.00
Masons	\$3.10	\$1.90
Apprentices (Carpenters)	\$1.20	\$0.75
Apprentices (Masons)	\$1.10	\$0.70

These workers are supplied with food by the employers.

At 3 p.m., October 30, some 50 building contractors will hold a meeting on the premises of the Tsung Hui Society, 7th floor, Sz Soh Building, Nanking Road, to enable the representatives to report on the terms of settlement. Messrs. Kiang Zang Hung (江長庚), Zia Ping Hung (謝秉衡) and Chang Chi Kwang (張繼光), representatives of the employers, called at Special Branch at 3.35 p.m., October 27 and requested permission for the holding of the proposed meeting.



SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

**REPORT**

..... Station. File No. ..... Date .....

SUBJECT: - 2 -

On October 27, a letter was received from labour representatives reporting that the strike had been settled.

W381<sup>c</sup> - 8/10

Kirk Tao-hwa

C. D. I.

A. C. (Special Branch).

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

S. I. Special Branch 8/1/41. File No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date November 3, 1941.

SUBJECT: Shanghai Special Municipality Masons & Carpenters Union - application for registration.

Forwarded herewith is an application for registration from the Shanghai Special Municipality Masons & Carpenters Union (上海特别市木工業職業公會), upstairs of No.278 Chekiang Road, with a branch office inside the Building Contractors Trade Association, No.105 Shiao Bee Loong, Foh Yeu Koad, Nantao.

When a detective of Special Branch visited the premises of the head office of the Shanghai Special Municipality Masons & Carpenters Union at upstairs of No.278 Chekiang Road, as given in the application, he found no such union in existence, but the address housed an organization known as the Shanghai Municipality Fried & Cooked Food Shop Owners' Association (上海市油炸及熟食業同業公會), which is registered with the Municipal Police, in possession of registration certificate No.C-254.

It is of interest to note that the labour union in question once established an office at Lane 272, No. 9 Chekiang Road, which was raided and closed down by the Municipal Police on April 15, 1941, for instigating a strike of 10,000 masons and carpenters in the Settlement and French Concession on April 13 to agitate for an increase in wages and for directing acts of intimidation in the Settlement. They however resumed work on April 21 and 22, when their employers granted an increase in wages. During the strike, acts of intimidation were committed by the strikers in the Settlement and a number of them were arrested and

A.C. S.I.B.  
S.I.  
Refusal  
recommended

4/11/41

I agree



(S. I. Kao  
Mr. Chung  
Please note A.C.'s  
instructions.)

4/11/41

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

- 2 -

Station. File No. .... Date.....

SUBJECT:

charged by the Municipal Police.

A joint despatch dated April 14, 1941, was addressed to Special Branch Headquarters by the Shanghai Municipality 1st District and 6th District Masons & Carpenters Labour Unions, informing the Police that a satisfactory settlement was reached in the recent labour dispute between the building contractors and their employees and appealing for Police assistance against possible intimidation at the hands of a number of disgruntled workers who were still on strike and were apparently being instigated by professional agitators. It is obvious that the unions attempted to mislead the Police. In the despatch, it stated that the two unions have been in existence since 1927, and were formerly registered with the now defunct Local Tangpu but are now under the sponsorship of the Shanghai Special Municipality Social Movement Direction Committee, Chinese Chamber of Commerce Building, North Soochow Road. It has maintained a joint communication address at Room 401, 210 Kiukiang Road, which is the home address of one Sze Loong-ziang (施龍祥), the Chairman of the union, as given in the application. Sze Loong-ziang and Zau Zung-ching (鮑順卿), the authors of the joint letter are the Standing Committee members of the Shanghai Municipality 1st & 6th District Masons & Carpenters Unions respectively.

Another joint despatch dated June 16, 1941 was received at Special Branch Headquarters from the Shanghai Municipality 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 6th District Masons and Carpenters Unions, informing the Police of

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

- 3 -

Station. File No. .... Date November 3, 1941.

SUBJECT:

the establishment of a joint office in the Building Contractors Trade Association, No.105 Shiao Bee Loong, Foh Yeu Road, Nantao, with the approval of the Shanghai Special Municipality Social Movement Direction Committee, and of the intention of these unions to detail men to canvass new members in the Settlement.

In October 1941 the Shanghai Municipality Masons & Carpenters Union submitted, on behalf of the workers, a demand for an increase in wages to the Shanghai Municipality Building Contractors Trade Association, 105 Shiao Bee Loong, Foh Yeu Road, Nantao, and also at Room 727 Tse Shu Building, Lane 353, I. Nanking Road (not registered with S.M.P.). On receipt of the letter, the trade association applied to Shanghai Municipal Police for permission to hold a meeting to discuss the demand of the workers on the premises of the Tsung Nyi Zee, 7th floor Tse Shu Building, Nanking Road, on October 21. However, about 3,000 casual workers of the trade went on strike on October 16, as a protest against the employers of having wilfully ignored the time-limit, which the workers claimed should be on October 19 instead of October 21. They returned to work on October 26, when a wage increase was granted.

Following the strike, handbills purporting to have emanated from the Joint Representatives Group of Carpenters and Masons, in support of the strike made an appearance in the Settlement.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

- 4 -

Station. File No. .... Date .....

SUBJECT:

On October 17, a joint despatch was received at Special Branch Headquarters from the Shanghai Municipality 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 6th District Masons & Carpenters Unions (with offices at Room 401, House 210 Kiukiang Road), requesting the Police to place on record the present strike declared by a portion of masons and carpenters on October 16 to enforce a demand for a 100% increase in wages.

As no agreement was reached during the meeting held on October 21, between representatives of the employers and employees, for negotiating a settlement in the strike, a suggestion was put forward at the meeting that representatives of both the labour and capital attend Special Branch Police Headquarters for mediation but this was rejected by the labour representatives.

As will be seen from the above facts the four unions are incorporated into one organization, who would be influenced by the Shanghai Special Municipality Social Movement Direction Committee which is the chief supporter of the Committee, rather than by the Municipal Police.

It is also to be noted that the masons and carpenters are of low mentality and have not the initiative to be active in the union affairs. It is confidentially learned that the union is entirely in the hands of the clerk who is a follower of Hu Shou-chi (胡寿祺), a professional agitator, who is also at present a committee member of the Social Movement Direction Committee and concurrently Chairman of the "Chinese Ratepayers' Association" of the Nanking

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

- 5 -

Station. File No. .... Date .....

SUBJECT:

Government. Further this union consists of a number of unemployed agitators who intend living on the membership fees and periodical subsidies to be obtained from the building contractors.

W. W. H.

Kao Jen-kun

D. I.

A. C. (Special Branch).

10/10

SPECIAL BRANCH

Date September 1. 1941

Attached is an application received from :-

Name of organization,  
club, school, etc. Shanghai Municipality Masons &

Carpenters Union

Address. 278 Chekiang Road

requesting permission to/tobis/ for registration

in (venue)

at (time and date)

Programme, etc. attached.

*Pgyo*

S. 1.

Attention.

Registration No. ....

# SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

## Registration Form for Organizations.

Municipal Notification No. 4878 of October 21, 1937.

1. Name of Organization Shanghai Special Municipality Masons & Carpenters Union.
2. Address Upstairs of No.278 Chekiang Road.
3. Object To promote mutual friendship and welfare among the members.
4. (a) Date of formation May, 1927. (b) Date of Inauguration June, 1927.
5. Promoters: Name Chang Ching-piao Occupation carpenter.
  
6. Chairman: Name Sze Loong-ziang Occupation carpenter.  
Home address Tuh Ling Co., 4th floor, 210 Kiukiang Road.  
Business address Upstairs of No.278 Chekiang Road.
7. Committee: Name Sze Loong-ziang Occupation masons and carpenters.  
Chang Ching-piao  
Chu Ah-s  
Zau Zung-ching.  
Inside Building Contractors Guild, No.105
8. Sub-Offices, if any: Address Chiao Bee Loong, Foh Yeu Road, Nantao.  
Officer-in-charge Sze Loong-ziang, Chang Ching-piao, Chu Ah-s, &  
Zau Zung-ching.
9. Total membership expected 1,137 members.  
Profession of members in general masons and carpenters.  
Membership fee An entrance fee of \$5 each (no other fees).  
Subsidies To be contributed by the building contractors.
10. Proposed activities To open a class for giving education to the  
children of its members.
11. Registered by Tangpu and/or City Government Yes.  
Serial No. and Date of certificate issued Certificate lost during the hostilities.

*Signed* ..... Chang Ching-piao.  
*Promoters.*

*Date* August 28, 1941. ..... Sze Loong-ziang.  
*Chairman.*

### Recommendation of Special Branch.

Report attached.

No objection  
Refusal recommended.

Endorsed E. J. Lee  
P.A. to D.C.

W. L. Wilson  
Officer i/c S. I.

Approved

W. G. Duncan  
D.C. (Special Branch).

Passed to Commissioner of Police for refusal  
(Reasons attached).

## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

## REPORT

S.1 Special Branch ..... Station. File No. .... Date October 22, 1941.

SUBJECT: Shanghai Municipality Building Contractors Association - meeting held on October 21

Between 3 p.m. and 6.45 p.m. October 21, a meeting of representatives of the capital and labour of the local building trade was held on the premises of the Tsung Nyi Society (正誼社), 7th floor, Sz Soh Building, Nanking Road, to negotiate a settlement in the present strike declared by casual masons and carpenters on October 16 to enforce a demand for a 100% increase in wages. About 60 persons, including Messrs. Chang Chi Kwang (張繼光) and Kiang Zang Kung (江長庚), representing the employers; Tsai Tse San (蔡芝山), representing the Masons and Carpenters Union, and Koo Tsung Kuo (顧振國), representing the workers, were present.

No settlement was reached at this meeting as the workers insisted upon an increase of \$1.60 per diem in their wages, while the employers agreed to grant the workers a wage increase of only \$1 per diem. In view of the deadlock, a suggestion was put forward at the meeting that both the labour and capital attend the Special Branch, Police Headquarters, for mediation, but this was rejected by the labour representatives.

The masons and carpenters are still on strike to-day, October 22.

*Koh Tao-hwa*

C. D. I.

A. C. (Special Branch)



## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

S. B. REGISTRY

No. S. B. D. 9474/1

## REPORT

S. 1., Special Branch Station. File No. .... Date October 21, 1941.

**SUBJECT:** Joint despatch from "Shanghai Municipality First, Second, Third and Sixth District Masons and Carpenters Unions" - requesting Police to place on record the strike of masons and carpenters.

Forwarded herewith, together with translation, is a joint despatch dated October 17, 1941 received at Special Branch Headquarters from the Shanghai Municipality First, Second, Third and Sixth District Masons and Carpenters Unions (with offices at Room 401, House 210 Kiukiang Road), requesting the Police to place on record the present strike declared by masens and carpenters on October 16 to enforce demands for a 100% increase in wages.

Of the four joint senders of the despatch, the "Shanghai Municipality First and Sixth District Masons and Carpenters Unions" were formerly the regular labour unions for local masons and carpenters, but due to circumstances prevailing in this locality, these two unions have recently possibly against their wishes, been affiliated, together with the two other unions, with the Shanghai Branch of the Social Movement Direction Committee, Chinese Chamber of Commerce Building, North Soochow Road. An application for registration with the S.M.P. is under consideration.

*Echo.*  
FILE  
21. 10. H!

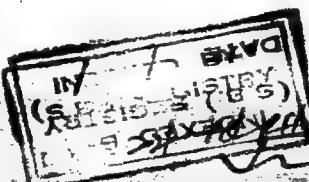


Vide Sp. Br.  
report dated  
June 25, 1941.

Vide Sp. Br.  
report dated  
17/10/41

On October 16, some 3,000 casual masons and carpenters, employed in the Settlement, French Concession and Chinese territories, went on strike to enforce a demand for a 100% increase in wage. They are still out to-day, October 21.

As previously reported, a general meeting of representatives of both the employers and employees



SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

Station. File No. .... Date.....

SUBJECT:

- 2 -

will be convened at 3 p.m. to-day, October 21, on the premises of the Tsung Nyi Society (正誼社), 7th floor, Sz Soh Building, Nanking Road, for the purpose of discussing a wage-increase to the workers. The function will be watched by members of the Special Branch.

b.l.  
21.10.11  
69.21.10

Kuh Tao-hwa

C. D. I.

A.C. (Special Branch).

Translation of a joint dispatch dated October 17, 1941 addressed to Special Branch, S.M.P., by the "Shanghai Municipality First, Second, Third and Sixth District Masons and Carpenters Unions".

To the Special Branch,

S. M. P.

Sirs,

Sometime ago we received a letter from Ghui Kwang Hwa (桂光華) and other members of the Joint Representative Group of local Masons and Carpenters, stating that owing to the continuous rising cost of living, they are unable to make ~~theirselves~~ ends meet with their present earnings and they requested us to approach the Building Contractors Association to increase their wages. After several discussions, the Building Contractors Association agreed to call a meeting of representatives of the labour and capital at 3 p.m. October 21 to hold a discussion on the issue. Ghui Kwang Hwa and other representatives of the masons and carpenters were accordingly informed by letter to attend the meeting at the appointed time and date.

However, the workers, holding the view that the date of the meeting was far too remote and that the employers showed lack of sincerity in the negotiations, declared a "taikung" strike on the morning of October 16 and by 4 p.m. the same day, they struck work completely. Although our Unions have detailed officials to advise the workers to resume work and not to resort to lawless activities pending a solution of the dispute at the meeting to be held on October 21, the employers have ended in failure due to the lawlessness of the workers, causing a possible aggravation. Therefore, and this is the reason why the Special Branch will place the matter on your

(Chopped) Shanghai Municipality First District

Masons and Carpenters Union

(Chopped) Shanghai Municipality Second District

Masons and Carpenters Union

(Chopped) Shanghai Municipality Thiru District

Masons and Carpenters Union

(Chopped) Shanghai Municipality Sixth District

Masons and Carpenters Union

Standing Committee Members

(Sealed) Sze Loong Ziang (施龍祥)

(Sealed) Chang Ching Piao (張景標)

(Sealed) Chu Ah Shui (朱阿水)

(Sealed) Shao Zung Ching (邵忠卿)

Office : Room 401, House 210 Kiukiang Road.

W.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

S.1 Special Branch Station File No. .... Date October 17, 1941.

9474  
18 10 11

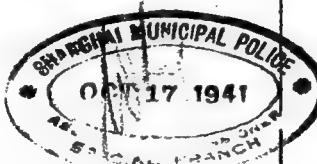
SUBJECT: Distribution of handbills re strike of carpenters and masons

Forwarded herewith is a handbill, together with translation, dated October 16, 1941 and purporting to have emanated from the Joint Representatives Group of Carpenters and Masons, copies of which were found on Markham Road on the afternoon of October 17.

The handbill accuses the employers of lack of sincerity and states that as a result, carpenters and masons were compelled to declare a strike on October 16 in order to enforce their demand for an increase in wages. The handbill also warns the workers in the trade not to resume work unless a notice to this effect is issued, failing which suitable punishment will be meted out to the offenders.

Shih Tao-hwa

C. D. I.



A. C. (Special Branch)

18 10 11

Translation of a handbill dated October 16, 1941,  
issued by the Joint Representatives Group of the  
Carpenters and Masons

To labour friends,

Owing to the recent heavy increase in the commodity prices, we put forward about a month ago a demand for an increase in our wages, but the employers show no sincerity and wilfully hold our demand at bay. In consequence, we are compelled to go on strike en bloc as from to-day and hope that our labour friends will not be unduly disturbed among themselves during the period of strike and that they will refrain from privately undertaking any work prior to the issue of a notice calling for the resumption of work. If any one is found to be working privately, suitable punishment will be meted out to him. It is hoped that all the labour friends will pay due attention.

Joint Representatives Group  
of Carpenters and Masons,

October 16, 1941.

JR

## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

## REPORT

S.1 Special Branch      Station. File No. .... Date October 17, 1941.

SUBJECT: Strike of local carpenters and masons

Reference the report submitted on October 16 on the proposed meeting to be convened on October 21 on the premises of the Tsung Nyi Society (正道社), 7th floor, Sz Soh Building, Nanking Road, by local building contractors in conjunction with carpenters and masons over a revision of the latter's wages, information to hand elicits that on October 12 the employers informed certain workers' representatives to that effect and that a general discussion over a wage-increase would take place either in a week or ten days, which was then mutually agreed upon.

However, a portion of the workers, upon being informed of the date of the proposed general meeting, immediately accused the employers of having wilfully ignored the time-limit, which the workers claim should be on October 19 instead of October 21 as scheduled. As a protest they commenced a strike on October 16.

The portion of carpenters and masons at present affected, consisting chiefly of casual workers and numbering some 3,000 covering the three areas, are still on strike to-day, October 17. The present wages being \$4.40 per diem, they are now demanding an increase of 100%.

Despite the obstinate attitude of the employers of the carpenters and masons, who refused to meet the workers on October 16 and who, through professional agitators, have been endeavoring to

17/10/41



SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

- 2 -

Station. File No. .... Date.....

SUBJECT:

October 21 as scheduled, and are reluctant to enter  
into negotiations with the workers before that date.

11/10/41  
W.M.H.

Kuh Tao-hwa.

C. D. I.

A. C. (Special Branch)

## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

## REPORT

MUNICIPAL POLICE

NO. 102 94714

15 10 41

S.1 Special Branch Station. File No. .... Date October 15, 1941.

**SUBJECT:** Shanghai Municipality Building Contractors Trade Association - Application for permission to hold a meeting on October 21

At 3.30 p.m. October 14, Messrs. Kiang Zang Kung (江長庚) and Zia Ping Hung (謝東衡), representatives of the Shanghai Municipality Building Contractors Trade Association (上海市營造廠業同業公會), with offices at No.105 Siao Bee Loong (硝皮弄), An Zung Ka (安仁街), Nantao, and also at Room 727 Sz Soh Building (慈淑大樓), Nanking Road, (not registered with the S.M.P.) called at Special Branch Headquarters, with a letter from the Association (attached with translation) requesting permission to hold a meeting on the premises of the Tsung Nyi Zoe (正誼社), 7th floor, Sz Soh Building, Nanking Road, at 3 p.m. October 21. The meeting, which will be attended by some 100 persons representing the employees and employers in the trade, is to discuss a demand which has been submitted to the Association by the Shanghai Municipality Masons and Carpenters Union (上海市水木掌職業公會) on behalf of the workers for an increase in wages.

FILE  
15-10-41



A. C. (Special Branch)

Translation of a letter dated October 14, 1941  
addressed to the Special Branch, S.M.P., by the  
Shanghai Municipality Building Contractors Trade  
Association

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To the Special Branch,

S. M. P.

Sirs,

The Shanghai Municipality Masons and Carpenters Union, on behalf of the workers in the trade, have applied to this Association for an increase in wages owing to the increased cost of living. In view of the importance of the request, this Association proposes to hold a meeting at 3 p.m. October 21 (Tuesday) on the premises of the Tsung Nyi Zoe, 7th floor, Sz Soh Building, Nanking Road, to which members of this Association and representatives of the Union will be invited to hold a discussion of the issue for the purpose of coming to an agreement. In this connection, this Association solicits your permission to hold this meeting.

(Chopped) Shanghai Municipality  
Building Contractors  
Trade Association.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

SPECIAL BRANCH POLICE		GISTRY
No.	Date	94741
28	6	41

S.1 Special Branch Station File No. Date June 25, 1941.

**SUBJECT:** Joint despatch from Shanghai Municipality First, Second, Third and Sixth District Masons and Carpenters Unions - informing S.M.P. of their intention to canvass for new members in the Settlement

Forwarded herewith, together with translation, is a joint despatch dated June 16, 1941 received at Special Branch Headquarters from the Shanghai Municipality First, Second, Third and Sixth District Masons and Carpenters Unions. The despatch is jointly sealed and chopped by the four unions.

*S.1.  
Ignore  
Communication  
K. I. O.  
R/P 25  
6.*  
*B. 856.*  
*telec.  
R/P 6.*  
*FILE  
R/P 6*

The text of the communication is to inform Police of the establishment of a joint office in the Building Contractors Guild (木工公所), No.105 Shao Bi Loong (肖皮弄), Foh Yue Road (福佑路), Nantao, and of the intention of these unions to detail men to canvass for new members in the Settlement.

It is significant to note that the Shanghai Municipality First and Sixth District Masons and Carpenters Unions, which have heretofore been the regular labour unions for local masons and carpenters, are now the joint senders of the present despatch. It may be concluded that these two unions have been coerced or otherwise compelled to put their seals on the despatch and this point is supported by the following facts :-

(1) In a previous joint letter sent to the S.M.P. on

April 17, 1941, Sze Loong Ziang, a standing committee member of the Shanghai Municipality First District Masons and Carpenters Union, used a chop bearing the characters "Loong Ziang" (龍翔), while Shao

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

- 2 -

Station. File No. .... Date.....

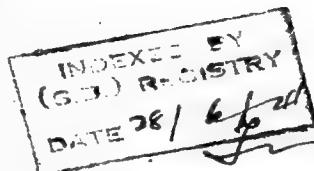
SUBJECT:

Zung Ching (鄭順卿), a standing committee member of the Shanghai Municipality Sixth District Masons and Carpenters Union, gave his signature in writing.

- (2) In the present despatch, Sze Loong Ziang uses a different chop with characters: "Seal of Sze Loong Ziang" (施龍翔印), whereas Shao Zung Ching, instead of signing the document, uses a chop.

These discrepancies tend to show the reluctance of these men in putting their chop and signature to the present despatch, but in order to avoid unpleasantness, they use different chops instead.

In view of the foregoing and the fact that these unions, the Shanghai Municipality First, Second, Third and Sixth District Masons and Carpenters Unions, are now affiliated with the Shanghai Branch of the Social Movement Direction Committee, 527 Range Road, it is respectfully suggested that the communication be ignored and filed for record purpose only.



by 750

Kuh Tao-hwa

C. D. I.

A. C. (Special Branch)

Translation of a joint despatch received from the  
Shanghai Municipality First, Second, Third and Sixth  
District Masons and Carpenters Unions, dated June 16.

To the Special Branch,

S. M. P.

With the approval of the Shanghai Branch, Social Movement Direction Committee, a joint office has been established in the premises of the Building Contractors' Guild (水木公所), No.105 Shao Bi Loong (硝皮弄), Nantao, by the Shanghai Municipality First, Second, Third and Sixth District Masons and Carpenters Unions.

In compliance with an order recently received from the competent authorities instructing the unions in question to canvass for new members, men will be detailed by the unions to visit building contractors and mason and carpenter shops in districts under your jurisdiction and to advise the building workers to register with the unions as members, for the purpose of unification. In this connection, it is hereby requested that, to facilitate the labour movement, your branch keep the matter on record.

(Chopped) Shanghai Municipality First District Masons & Carpenters Union

(Chopped) Shanghai Municipality Second District Masons & Carpenters Union

(Chopped) Shanghai Municipality Third District Masons & Carpenters Union

(Chopped) Shanghai Municipality Sixth District Masons & Carpenters Union

Standing Committee members:

(Chopped) Sze Loong Ziang (施龍翔)

(Chopped) Chang Ching Piao (張景標)

(Chopped) Chu Ah Shie (朱阿水)

(Chopped) Shao Zung Ching (邵順卿)

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

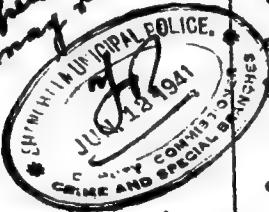
REPORT

9474/1  
12 6. HI

S. I., Special Branch. *Sidlooh.* File No. .... Date June 11, 1941.

SUBJECT: Letter received by Yulin Road Police Station from Shanghai Municipality 7th District Masons and Carpenters Union

The attached communication, dated June 1941, was received by Yulin Road Police Station from the Shanghai Municipality 7th District Masons and Carpenters Union (上海市第七區木業職業之會), No. 44 Lan An Li (来安里), Sing Ming Road (新民路), off North Kiangse Road, containing a request that the Police accord facilities to members of the union, who will be provided with identification papers, when they are sent out by the union to investigate the working conditions of masons and carpenters in the district concerned and to canvass for new members.



D. C. (C 2 S-B)

Information  
suggested.  
Copies be  
sent to  
D. O.  
Divisions

The regular labour unions for local masons and carpenters are the Shanghai Municipality 1st and 6th Districts Masons and Carpenters Unions, with a joint communication address at Room 401, 210 Kiukiang Road. As the Shanghai Municipality 7th District Masons and Carpenters Union has not previously come to the notice of the Municipal Police and is believed to have been formed by agitators and is affiliated with the outside authorities, I respectfully suggest that the request be ignored and the communication be filed for record purpose only.

Kud Tso-han  
C. D. I.

*By [initials]*  
A. C. (Special Branch).

FILE

6. 11. 6. 4

Translation of a letter from the Masons & Carpenters Union  
of the 7th Division of Shanghai addressed to Yulin Road Police  
Station, dated June 7, 1941.

Sir,

I have to inform you that in order to unite all unions together as well as to render interest assistance to the members of the union we have been instructed that members in four divisions should join together. As we may detail our members to inquire into matters which may happen within your jurisdiction, all members are in possession of identification paper whilst in the execution of their duties.

余元忠

Representative: Yu Yuan Tsong

P.B.(Brine)

Forwarded in favor  
of passing to the Branch.

Printed  
Radio  
6/7/41

Masons & Carpenters Union of  
the 7th Division of Shanghai.

Address: 44 La An Li, Sing  
Ling Road, off North Avenue Rd.



9474  
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上海市二區水木業職業工會爲鋸作組整頓業規

28.5.1941

**Sin Wan Pao (advertisement) 3-**

## **MASONS AND CARPENTERS UNION ISSUES NOTICE**

The Shanghai Municipality First, Second, Third and Sixth Districts Masons and Carpenters Union publishes the following advertisement :-

The daily pay of a worker of the union, including sawyers, has been fixed at \$4 effective from April 20, 1941. Four cents is the charge for every foot of wood cut, but it will be less in the case of those workers who are supplied with food and/or who are engaged to saw materials of a second-hand or hard nature. Special charges are fixed for lumber yards and furniture shops.

Carpenters are not allowed to undertake the work of a sawyer. In case they violate this regulation, the following fines are to be imposed :-  
a) Building contractors will be fined 30% of the charges for the sawing work; they should also publish in the newspapers a notice and distribute circulars to that effect.  
b) Carpenters should pay 15% of the charges as a fine.

9474  
16 5 44

AMERICAN PRESS

THE  
**SHANGHAI BUILDING  
CONTRACTORS'  
GUILD**  
NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the recent strike of Carpenters and Masons has been settled through the efforts of this Guild by an Agreement which provides for increases of \$1.00 per day and 80.90 per day in wages respectively, to be paid by Contractors to the workmen concerned, as from 21st April, 1941.

Building Owners are kindly requested to give this matter their favourable consideration and to permit of corresponding increases being charged by Contractors in the amount of existing Contracts.

5290

CCH/

## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

MUNICIPAL POLICE

REGISTRY

9474

23 H 44

## REPORT

S. 1. Special Branch Station. File No. .... Date April 22, 1941.

SUBJECT: Labour dispute between Building Contractors and workmen - settled.

(Vide Special Branch Reports dated 22/3/41 &amp; 27/4/41).

In March, 1941, meetings were held between the representatives of building contractors and the representatives of workers (masons, carpenters etc.) to discuss a demand for an increase in wages which was submitted to the Shanghai Municipality Building Contractors Trade Association by the Shanghai Masons & Carpenters Union on behalf of the workers. The contractors finally agreed to grant an increase of 30 cents in wages to masons, 90 cents to carpenters, sawers and plasterers and 25 cents to apprentices.

(Vide Special Br. Report dated - 10/4/41).

This increase would have been effective from April 16, 1941 when their wages would be as follows :

	<u>Original pay</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>New pay</u>
Masons	\$0.95	\$0.80	\$1.75
Carpenters	\$1.00	\$0.90	\$1.90
Sawers	\$1.10	\$0.90	\$2.00
Plasterers	\$1.20	\$0.90	\$2.10
Apprentices	\$0.45	\$0.25	\$0.70

However, on April 13, 1941, instigated by professional agitators, some 10,000 masons, carpenters, sawers, plasterers and apprentices employed in the local building trade, became dissatisfied with the increase granted and declared a strike to enforce a demand for a 150% increase in wages. Following the declaration of the strike, acts of intimidation were committed by the strikers in the Settlement and a number of them were arrested and charged accordingly.

(Vide Sinza F.I.R.  
1016/41;  
Louza F.I.R.  
1806/41;  
Louza Misc.  
257/41).



FILE

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

Station. File No..... Date.....

SUBJECT: ( 2 )

(Vide Special Branch Report - dated 18/4/41).

On April 14, a joint despatch was received at Special Branch Headquarters from the Shanghai Municipality 1st District and the Shanghai Municipality 6th District Masons & Carpenters Unions requesting Police protection against possible intimidation at the hands of a number of disgruntled workers, who were on strike. These two unions were registered with the defunct Tangpu prior to the 1937 Sino-Japanese hostilities. They were also responsible for negotiating for the wage increase which is mentioned in the 1st paragraph of this report.

(Vide Special Branch Report - 16/4/41).

See A 8453

On April 15, a so-called Shanghai Municipality 2nd District Masons & Carpenters Lien Nyi Society, Lane 272/9 North Chekiang Road which was affiliated with the Shanghai Branch, Social Movement Direction Committee 527 Range Road, was raided & closed by members of the Special Branch. This society, as stated by the persons arrested by the S.M.P., was the directing organ for the acts of intimidation committed in the Settlement.

Following the strike declared on April 13, negotiations were conducted through the medium of a third party, whereby it was agreed between the employers and employees that a further increase of 10 cents to the workers and 5 cents to the apprentices <sup>be</sup> granted, this increase to be effective from the date of resumption of work. Their wages will now be as follows :-

## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

## REPORT

Station. File No. .... Date.....

SUBJECT: ( 3 )

Masons	\$1.85
Carpenters	\$2.00
Sawers	\$2.10
Plasterers	\$2.20
Apprentices	\$0.75

A number of the 10,000 workers who were on strike resumed work on April 21, whilst the remainders resumed work this morning, April 22. The labour situation in this trade is now normal.

M. S. 3/1

Kuh Tao-hua

C. D. I.

A. C. (Special Branch).

[Handwritten signature]

## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

S. B. REGISTRY

No. S. B. D. 9474

## REPORT

Date 21 4 41

S. I., Special Branch. Station File No. Date April 18, 1941.

SUBJECT: Shanghai Municipality 1st District and 6th District Masons & Carpenters Unions - a joint despatch to S.M.P.

Forwarded herewith, together with translation, is a joint despatch dated 14.4.41, received at Special Branch Headquarters from the Shanghai Municipality 1st District and the Shanghai Municipality 6th District Masons & Carpenters Unions. The despatch is jointly sealed and chopped by the two unions.

The general theme of the communique is to inform the Police of the satisfactory settlement reached in the recent labour dispute between building contractors and their employees which substantiated the previous report dated April 10 (flagged below) and to appeal for Police assistance against possible intimidation at the hands of a number of disgruntled workers who are now on strike and who - with the exception of those working in Nantao, Chapei and Hongkew districts - are apparently being instigated by professional agitators entertaining ulterior motives.

According to the despatch, the two unions have been in existence since 1927 when they were registered with the now defunct Chinese authorities, their offices being then located in Chinese territory. At present they maintain a joint communication address at Room 401, 210 Kiukiang Road. Messrs Gze Loong Ziang (施龍祥) and Zau Zung Ching (鮑仲卿), the senders of this joint letter, are standing committee member of the 1st District and the 6th District.

*poly*

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

Station. File No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: - 2 -

Masons & Carpenters Unions respectively.

The Shanghai Municipality 1st District Masons & Carpenters Union exercises its jurisdiction over an area south of Nanking and Bubbling Well Roads, including the French Concession and Nantao, whilst the Shanghai Municipality 6th District Masons & Carpenters Union exercises its control over the area north of Nanking and Bubbling Well Roads, including Chapei.

The significance of the nomenclature, viz the 1st District and the 6th District, shows it has followed the district-allotment of the defunct Tangpu branches which is still being observed by loyal building workers only.

12.18/4

Mark Tao. Lwa

C. D. I.

A.C. (Special Branch). -----

The present situation in this trade is as follows:- Approximately 10,000 carpenters & masons in the Settlement and French Concession went on strike on 13.4.41 to enforce a demand for 150% increase in wages. They are still out today April 19th.

This strike was instigated by the Shai-Municipality 2nd & 3rd District Masons & Carpenters' Union formerly located at Lane 272, No.9, North Chekiang Rd. (This address was raided and closed down by Sp. Br. on Apr.15.)

This Union is affiliated with the Shai. Branch of the Social Movement Direction Committee, which is taking up mediation at its office at 527 Range Road.

W. G. Wilson  
D. S. I.

A.C. (Sp. Br.)

April 17, 1941.

Translation of a letter received from the "Shanghai 1st District Masons and Carpenters Union" and the "Shanghai 6th District Masons & Carpenters Union".

-----

To Special Branch, S.M.P.

These unions came into existence in 1927. In the same year, with the approval of official organs and in the presence of their representatives, we signed an agreement with the Building Contractors Association. It was agreed that we could function within the International Settlement and French Concession.

As a result of cooperation between capital and labour, no strikes were declared by the workers in the trade during the past fourteen years and all disputes were settled amicably through our mediation. Recently the workers demanded an increase in wages owing to the high cost of living and the employers, at our request, convened a meeting on March 26 with the permission of the Settlement Authorities for the purpose of discussing the matter. It was decided that carpenters, who are receiving \$1.00 per day, be granted an increase of 90 cents per day, making a total of \$1.90; that masons, who are receiving 95 cents per day, be granted an increase of 80 cents per day, making a total of \$1.75 per day; and that apprentices be granted an increase of 25 cents per day. All the workers are given food. In other words, the workers were granted 90% - 100% increase in wages. This decision was published in the press by the employers for the information of those concerned.

Unexpectedly a portion of the workers, at the instigation of outsiders, have organized a "Masons and Carpenters Welfare Society" in the Settlement for the purpose of agitation. They compelled the workers to declare a strike under the pretext that the recent increase would be insufficient to meet the growing cost of living, thereby endangering the peace and good order of the Settlement. Our efforts to stop the strike were of no avail as the workers had been deprived of their tools by the agitators.

Our unions are legitimate and cooperating with the employers. Following the return of the "National Government" to Nanking, we effected registration with the Shanghai Branch of the Social Movement Direction Committee. In order to avoid misunderstanding in connection with the present strike, which was caused by certain agitators, we have applied to the Shanghai Branch, Social Movement Direction Committee, for investigation. In addition, we hereby apply to you for assistance ~~and~~ ~~agreement~~ in order to maintain peace and good order and to facilitate our labour movement.

(chopped) Shanghai 1st District  
Masons and Carpenters Union.

(chopped) Shanghai 6th District  
Masons and Carpenters Union.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

S.1. Special Branch Station. File No. .... Date April 10, 1941

SUBJECT: Shanghai Municipality Building Contractors' Association - granting an increase in wages to workers of the trade

Further to Special Branch Report on the above subject, dated 27.3.41, negotiations recently conducted between the Shanghai Municipality Building Contractors' Association, Room 727 Tae Zoh Building, Nanking Road, and the Shanghai Municipality 1st District and 6th District Mason and Carpenters' Union resulted in the following increase in wages being granted to the masons, carpenters, sawers and plasterers with effect from April 16, 1941 : \*

	<u>Present pay</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>New Pay</u>
Masons	\$0.95	\$0.80	\$1.75
Carpenters	\$1.00	\$0.90	\$1.90
Sawers	\$1.10	\$0.90	\$2.00
Plasterers	\$1.20	\$0.90	\$2.10
Apprentices	\$0.45	\$0.25	\$0.70

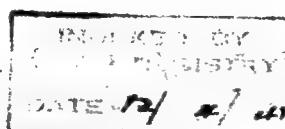


Kuh Tao-hua

C. D. I.

A. C. (Special Branch)

FIVE ✓



P. 1  
Apr. 8. 1941

Sin Wan Pao (advertisement) :-

NOTICE BY BUILDING CONTRACTORS GUILD

The Shanghai Municipality Building Contractors Guild publishes the following notice :-

The wages of masons, carpenters, sawers and plasterers have been increased on two occasions during the past few years. As a result of negotiations held by the Shanghai Municipality First District and the Sixth District Masons and Carpenters Unions, it has been agreed that with effect from April 16, the wage of a carpenter will be 90 cents a day, the wage of a mason 80 cents a day, the wage of apprentices will be increased to 25 cents a day, while the wage for sawers and plasterers will be paid according to the rules.

This notice is hereby published for the information of workers and employers and it is hoped that these increases of wages will be observed.

P. T. O.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

S. S. REGISTRY

D. 9474

27 3 41

REPORT

S. I., Special Branch. *Stabilized* File No. .... Date March 27, 1941.

SUBJECT: Shanghai Municipality Building Contractors' Association - meeting held on March 26

Between 4 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. March 26, the Shanghai Municipality Building Contractors' Association, Room 727 Tse Zoh Building, Nanking Road, held a meeting at the Tseng Nyi Club (正誼社), Rooms 701-710 Tse Zoh Building (慈淑大樓), Nanking Road. Some 40 representatives, including the following persons, of both contractors and workers in their employ were present :-

Tsang Chi Sien (張繼先),  
Chairman of the Association.

Tsai Tse San (蔡芝山),  
delegate of workers.

Sze Loong Ziang (施龍祥),  
delegate of workers.

During the meeting, discussion was held in connection with the demand submitted by the workers for an increase of \$1.30 per day in wages. The contractors finally decided to grant a daily increase of 80 cents. The delegates promised to refer this offer to the workers and later give a reply.

*Kuk Tso-hwa*

C. D. I.

A. C. (Special Branch).

FILED

CCH/

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

S. I. Special Branch Station./ File No. .... Date March 22, 1941.

SUBJECT: Shanghai Municipality Building Contractors Trade Association - application for permission to hold a meeting on March 26.

At 3 p.m., March 21, 1941, Messrs. Kiang Zang Kung (江長庚), Tsang Chi Kwang (張繼光) and Zia Ping Hung (謝秉衡), representatives of the Shanghai Municipality Building Contractors Trade Association (上海市營造廠業同業公會), with offices at No.105 Siao Bee Loong (硝皮弄), An Zung Ka (安仁街), Nantao, and also at Room 727, Sz Soh (惠淑) Building, Nanking Road, (Not registered with the S.M.P.) called at Special Branch Headquarters, with a letter from the association (attached with translation) requesting permission to hold a meeting on the premises of the Tsung Nyi Zoe (正誼社), 7th floor, Sz Soh Building, Nanking Road, at 3 p.m. March 26. The meeting, which will be attended by some 100 persons representing the employees and employers in the trade, is to discuss a demand which has been submitted to the Association by the Shanghai Masons and Carpenters Union (上海市水木業職業公會) on behalf of the workers for an increase in wages. Some six representatives of the workers will also be present at the meeting.



FILE

Kuh Tao-hwa

C. D. I.

A. C. ( Special Branch ).

INDEXED BY (S.I.) REGISTRY
DATE 22/3/41

MEMORANDUM

Shanghai Municipality Building  
Contractors Trade Association,  
105 Sizo Bee Loong, An Zung Ka,  
Wantao, and Room 727, Sz Soh  
Building, Wanking Road,

March 21, 1941.

To Special Branch, S.M.R.

Sirs,

The Shanghai Municipality Masons and Carpenters Union, on behalf of the workers in the trade, have applied to this association for an increase in wages owing to the high cost of living. In view of the difficulties of the workers and the possible consequences of a refusal to their demands, we have to consider an increase in wages which, however, has to be decided upon by the majority of the employers. Therefore, at 3 p.m. March 26, Wednesday, on the premises of the Tsung Yyi Zoe, 7th floor, Sz Soh Building, Wanking Road, it is proposed to hold a meeting of representatives of the workers and employers for the purpose of coming to an agreement. It is expected that about 100 persons will be present. Your approval for the holding of the meeting is respectfully requested.

(Signed and sealed)

KIANG ZANG KUNG (江長庚)  
TSANG CHI KWANG (張維光)  
ZIA PING HUNG (謝秉衡)

Shanghai Municipality Building Contractors  
Trade Association.

F.M.  
G. 40M-100  
CTH

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE & REGISTRY

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE & REGISTRY

Section I, Special Branches

REPORT

Date June 12, 1940.

Subject... Shanghai Municipality Building Contractors' Association -

meeting held on June 8.

Made by D. I. Kao Yen-ken. Forwarded by D. I. Crawford.

Some thirty leading members of the Shanghai Municipality Building Contractors' Association, Lane 727, Lane 353, 1 Nanking Road, held a meeting in the ~~X~~ Tsung Nyi Club, Room 701, Lane 353, 1 Nanking Road, between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. June 8. Some ten workers headed by Teai Ts San (蔡芝山) and Li Yuan Chwang (李雲章), members of the now defunct 1st District and 6th District Masons and Carpenters' Union, with a communication address at Room 401, 210 Kiukiang Road, were also present. It was agreed by both parties that the following increase in wages be granted to the masons and carpenters with effect from September 1, 1940

	<u>Present Pay</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>New Pay</u>
Masons :	\$0.68 a day	\$0.27	\$0.95
Apprentices :	\$0.29 a day	\$0.11	\$0.40
Carpenters :	\$0.72 a day	\$0.28	\$1.00
Apprentices :	\$0.32 a day	\$1.30	\$0.45

These workers are supplied with free food by the building contractors.

12/6.

Kao Yen-ken

D. I.

D. C. (Special Branch).

DATA 13/6/40

F.M.  
G. 40M-1-40  
CCH

File No. ....

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

S. I. Special Branch  
**REPORT**

Subjct /

Date June 5 1940

Subject Shanghai Municipality Building Contractors' Association - to hold a meeting on June 8.

Made by D. I. Kao Yen Ken Forwarded by D. I. Crawford.

D.O.A  
5% Central

The Shanghai Municipality Building Contractors' Association, Room 727, Lane 353, 1 Nanking Road, is arranging to hold a meeting of members in the Tsung Nyi (正道) Club (licensed), Room 701, Lane 353, 1 Nanking Road, between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. June 8 to discuss the granting of an increase in wages to carpenters and masons. It is expected that some 100 member contractors will be present.

When interviewed on June 5, Yuan Tsoong Yao (袁宗耀), Secretary of the association, gave an assurance that no politics would be discussed at the meeting. This association is not registered with the Municipal Police and the secretary stated that registration would be applied for.

G. S.  
Kao Yen Ken  
D. I.

D.C. (Special Branch)

11/1/40  
D. I. -  
C. S. - 5/1/40

SPECIAL BRANCH

Date May 31, 1940.

Attached is an application received from \*

Name of organization,  
clv', school, etc : Shanghai Municipality Building Contractors'

Association

Address : Room 727 Dah Loh Building, Nanking Road.

requesting permission to hold a meeting of members to discuss  
an increase of wages for carpenters and masons.

in (venue) the premises of the Taung Nyi Society, 7th floor  
Tse Shu Building, Nanking Road.

at (time and date) 3 p.m. June 8, 1940.

Programme, etc. attached.

S. I.

JKES

Attention.

Q. B. Y.

D.T. Kao.  
Put 3/s

RECEIVED  
1939  
Date

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

OCT 11 1939

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AN APPEAL TO OWNERS AND FELLOW  
CONTRACTORS

from

THE SHANGHAI BUILDING CONTRACTORS' GUILD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a letter has been received by this Guild from some of our members, stating as follows:-

"On account of the rapid decline of foreign exchange and high increase in costs, we have suffered very heavy losses and have asked in our previous letter for your assistance. We wish to thank you in this connection for your advertisement in the newspapers appealing to the owners. Since then we have been communicating with them for a compromise. Some have made reasonable increases, some only expressed their sympathy without taking any action, and others simply escaped from giving clear expression. As we cannot carry on with further delay, we shall be inevitably compelled to suspend our work and wait for a reasonable settlement. In view of other complications which might arise from the owners' tendering the incomplete jobs to new contractors after our suspension, we request that you would advertise in the newspapers to the effect that all jobs suspended owing to the present situation shall not be taken up by other persons without first obtaining consent of the original contractors."

Under the present circumstances, our member contractors have really encountered serious difficulties, which have set a big obstacle to the completion of their work and they have no way out of these difficulties unless some amicable compromise be made. We have previously published in the newspapers an appeal which we trust has received the attention of the owners.

We are in deep sympathy with our member contractors as regards what they have enumerated in their letter. But we would advise them not to suspend their work before careful consideration is made as, once the work is suspended, it will be more difficult to reach a settlement and additional disputes may arise thus making the situation more complicated.

As to the incomplete jobs to be taken up by new contractors, less anxiety should be felt in consideration of our strong union and the majority of members who have high business morals and will no doubt refrain from profiting for themselves at other people's expense.

Since the agreements for construction work are mostly specified with a time of completion, and the owners would expect to have use of their property in due time, suspension of jobs will cause unnecessary losses. Even if the owners should give the incomplete jobs to their new contractors there is no possibility of coming to terms without an increase in price. Instead of delaying the jobs and losing valuable time, it will be much better to effect an early completion of work at a reasonable increase in cost. We believe this point will be thoroughly appreciated by the owners.

For the interests of both the contractors and the owners we have herein-above reiterated what we are aware of and hope that our appeal will be kindly accepted.

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FILE

D.S. Kao,  
Pua  
"10  
JKLao  
"10

D. S. Kao  
To see.  
E. "10

File No. ....

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

S. I., Special Branch Section, 94741  
**REPORT**

Date October 7, 1939

Subject (in full) Workmen of building contractor concerns alleged to be making demand for an increase in wages.

Made by D.S.I. Kao Yen Ken Forwarded by C. Glauda

With reference to the attached translation of a newspaper report appearing in the Central China Daily News dated October 4 on the subject of workmen of building contractor concerns declaring a "tai-kung" strike as a demand for an increase in wages, enquiries made at the Building Contractors' Guild, Room 727, Lane 353, 1 Nanking Road, show that no such strike or labour dispute exists.

It is learned that because of the present increase in costs, the building contractors would like their customers, (landlords), to increase the building construction charges. The landowners in general refuse to make any concessions on the grounds that the building construction charges were agreed upon in written contracts signed between the building contractors and the land-owners, and legally speaking no alterations can be made.

Kao Yen Ken  
D. S. I.

D. C. (Special Branch).



FILE  
C. 10

Central China Daily News - 4/10/39

WORKMEN OF BUILDING CONTRACTOR CONCERN SUBMIT  
DEMAND FOR AN INCREASE OF WAGES

Owing to the heavy rise in foreign exchange resulting in a rise in the prices of commodities, some time ago the workmen of the local building concerns submitted a demand to the owners for an increase of their wages with a view to maintaining their livelihood. However, because of no satisfactory settlement, their demand resulted in a "go-slow" strike.

Nevertheless the workmen in question fear that the owners of the properties concerned will engage other workmen to carry on the jobs by contract after the work has been suspended by them. Considering that this will certainly cause some other disputes between the workmen on strike and those who will be engaged to carry on their work, the Building Contractors' Guild has therefore advised all its members not to carry on the uncompleted work in order not to seize the interests of other members of the same guild, and hope that the owners in question will grant the increase so as to prevent the movement from being further developed.

West Kengtung Station Report.